

Santa Cruz Neighbors Meeting
June 19, 2007
7pm – 9pm
Police Community Room
155 Center Street, Santa Cruz

Welcome and Introductions: Deborah Elston opened meeting. 25 people attended. Santa Cruz Neighbors is actively seeking new members to serve on the Steering Committee.

Santa Cruz Neighbors is hoping to be a registered Non-Profit Corporation by year end. Donations are greatly appreciated to affect this goal.

Introduction of **Kathy Agnone, from the Commission for the Prevention of Violence Against Women.**

Presentation:

Kathy's presentation highlighted their continuing self defense classes for ALL ages from early preteen to elderly. She encouraged everyone to contact her regarding time and date for the next classes.

Kathy spoke about the Safe Place Network. This program was established to build a network of safe spaces for women who feel frightened or threatened and are looking for support. Community Members post decals in a highly visible location to show their participation in this program. These businesses and some Santa Cruz city vehicles have been provided with resource cards containing phone numbers and contact information. Someone who feels they are in danger or are being threatened should locate these businesses and/or certain Santa Cruz city vehicles. There they will be provided access to a phone and a safe place to wait for support from police, local agencies, family or friends.

Also available through CPVAW are coasters which are provided free of charge to some local bars. The coaster reads on one side, "Think! Is she sober enough to say yes?" The reverse is printed with the California penal code for rape/sexual assault.

The Commission is made up of 7 Commissioners, one each appointed by each City Council Member. These are non-paid volunteer positions.

The Commission's budget is about \$30,000 per year. From this all self defense classes are given, informational brochures and other handouts are paid for, as well as other outreach projects. Also partnerships are formed with other nonprofits.

Next year The CPVAW is hoping to expand into more schools and hoping to establish curriculum in schools about sexual assault and awareness programs.

They are also hoping to continue to work in collaboration with UCSC. This year the event "Take Back The Night" was a huge success and raised awareness.

Debbie – We have some new neighborhoods in process of organizing Prospect Heights, Garfield Park - Neighbors of Circles, SOMBA - Bay St to Younglove & Mission to Seaside, Swift St - Almar to Delaware, Fair Ave Neighborhood Watch, Swift St to Almar & Mission to Delaware. Contact us if you want to jump in and help with your own Neighborhood Group.....just takes a little organizing and networking to get things started.

National Night Out, August 7th 5pm – 8pm A Nationwide Event, this year's will be the biggest of all. It is held each year to encourage awareness and support in keeping our city crime and drug free. This year's event will be at **Plantronics, 375 Encinal Street**. There will be Games, Prizes, Food and Refreshments. Many neighbors and businesses are coming together to make this a successful event! Please mark you calendars for this

special event and plan to come and make new friends. Bring the family and your neighbors.

Santa Cruz Neighbors July 17th Meeting, to be held at Garfield Christian Church at 111 Errett Circle, on the lower West Side of Santa Cruz. All are welcome to attend this information meeting regarding the proposed project at 2120 Delaware. Flyers were handed out regarding this meeting. All are urged to attend.

Friday Art Bus Tour - The Neighbors East of Laurel have invited everyone to take the bus tour of various art locations around the city on the First Friday of the month. This is a monthly event, costs only \$5 and all are welcome.

Saturday Market at San Lorenzo Park is inviting everyone to come down and check out the **Saturday Market**. Good for Neighborhoods to have these kinds of activities.

Neighborhood Reports

Beach Hill expressed some concern about the La Bahia project but felt things could be worked through to an agreeable conclusion.

Trash is always an issue due to the heavy volume of tourist traffic in the area. Also there is an ongoing problem with racing cars and motorcycles. Officer Sepulveda is very helpful and we are happy about being a safe neighborhood. We have an annual neighborhood party which is coming up, which is always a big success.

Birkshire/Miramar – The Safeway project is a concern regarding the possibility of increased traffic. The light at Miramar will be helpful and we are confident this will be helpful. The city has painted on the street the location of the speed bumps, the bump-outs and the chicane. This will show neighbors where those details will be located.

Branciforte Drive Neighbors – THANK YOU SANTA CRUZ NEIGHBORS! The Party Ordinance was very effective against a party house. These were not students, but young men. Many, many incidences with this house but they were found guilty and fined \$500 which went against the homeowner. It was a big win for the neighbors. Since then those tenants have moved out. There are also some concerns about traffic, a crosswalk and alleyways near the soon-to-be Whole Foods – we want to ensure safe access.

The fireworks are very scary and have recently escalated. And car and motorcycle noise has become a huge problem, especially on Fridays and Saturdays. Usually around 8 pm about 20-30 bikers will come racing up our street toward Branciforte. They were advised to make notes of times, number of vehicles and report it to traffic department.

There was some discussion about the noise from semi-trucks at the west end of town as the trucks approach the light at Swift. Patti Sapone reported that noise is a very difficult thing to enforce. She recommended that someone making a complaint should “paint a word picture.” By saying, “I was talking to my friend and when the bike/truck/loud car came by we could not continue our conversation until it had passed by.” Those things are very helpful to the officers.

Harvey West – Some problems with prostitution, drug dealing, noise, parking illegally, but the neighbors are diligent about staying on top of these issues. The power washers and parking lot cleaners at Costco were recently reminded that they cannot begin working before 8am any day of the week – including Saturdays.

High Street Neighbors are getting organized against a developer who wants to put in a 3 ½ to 4 storey building/condo project in place of a 2 story building currently in place. There are some issues regarding a water reservoir on 4.9 acres which needs to be rebuilt and/or retrofit with repairs. City is in process of looking for best solutions for budget.

Market Street – traffic is getting very bad again now that it's reopened. New thing is the Hwy. 17 Bus is frequenting Market St. even when traffic on the freeway is not heavy. A large housing development has been approved on upper Market. The neighborhood managed to get some of the issues resolved, but some things will be addressed in court. McDonalds attracts some difficult people with various abuse issues and the police and management have been very responsive to the neighbors.

Oceanview Neighbors - NOVA last year worked with NOLO (Neighbors of Lower Ocean) to get Jessie Street Park cleaned up. In the process it made the area much more attractive. Path from Ocean View Park to E. Cliff has been repaired and has helped a great deal. Problems continue with break-ins, drug use, dealing and prostitution. Projects this year: help with drug and prostitution problems so we obtained 10 or so cast iron street lights. We are having difficulty working with the city on this issue to help reduce these issues. We are trying to maintain Ocean View Park by clearing weeds and a gardening bed has been prepared. The reason we are a neighborhood group is because of our dogs. We get together every day around 4 pm – people with dogs and people without dogs – congregating at the park. We discuss issues that pertain to our neighborhood. I strongly recommend you all find a common link in your neighborhoods as it is a binding tool. Fireworks were great! It was a wonderful neighborhood event!

Patty Sapone – Park patrols with Sgt. Warren Berry, Officer Eric Seiley – and we are currently hiring 4 park officers, to deal with the increase in use during the summer, destruction of property, camping and illegal activity in the parks.

NOLO – working on “Stay-Away” orders for prostitutes and a letter has been submitted to legal department to get approval for this order. Code enforcement has been working in the area on issues very effectively. A developer for a concept for an Ocean Avenue property has been interested in hearing from neighbors. He has been very receptive. Membership and long term membership is evolving and we are looking to recruit some new members. We did take up an issue of a street where there were many accidents and it has been changed from 2 lanes to 2 lane. There have been no more accidents.

Garfield Park – Incident on Palm involving shooting @ 1:30 a.m. on the 16th of June. The drive by shooting was in the 400-500 block of Palm and it needs to be networked.

Debbie – working with the city for an online map to see if your neighborhood is organized and who is the contact person for that neighborhood. The map will be managed by the city and will be a great reference for everyone wishing to contact the neighborhoods in any area of the city. Reminder of July 17th meeting, donations, thanks for coming.